



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

****NEWS RELEASE****

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Burmaster: Wisconsin must close the achievement gap

New Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations administered in November 2002-03

MADISON—While Wisconsin fourth-, eighth-, and 10th-graders turned in a solid performance on new statewide tests, State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster said the state must maintain its focus on closing the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students and their peers.

“We should be very proud of our students who are succeeding, but we all have a responsibility for those who are struggling,” Burmaster said. “Overall our schools are meeting the challenge, but we still have work to do to close the achievement gap in Wisconsin.”

2002-03 WKCE Performance

Percent of All Students Scoring
Proficient or Advanced

	Fourth Grade	Eighth Grade	10th Grade
Reading	80	83	71
Language Arts	78	62	70
Oral Language	65	66	--
Mathematics	71	73	69
Science	77	74	69
Social Studies	90	81	72

For all students, the percentage scoring proficient or advanced in reading was 80 percent at grade four, 83 percent at grade eight, and 71 percent at grade 10. In math, 71 percent of fourth-graders, 73 percent of eighth-graders, and 69 percent of 10th-graders scored proficient or advanced.

However, the percentage of economically disadvantaged students scoring proficient or advanced in reading was significantly below the percentage for students who are not economically disadvantaged. Economically disadvantaged students at grades four, eight, and 10 scoring proficient and advanced in

(more)

reading were 67 percent, 65 percent, and 50 percent, respectively. A similar trend exists for math, with 52 percent of economically disadvantaged fourth-graders, 49 percent of economically disadvantaged eighth-graders, and 43 percent of economically disadvantaged 10th-graders scoring proficient or advanced.

State tests were all new this year, with the changes due to new federal and state education laws. They were administered in November 2002 rather than in February as had been done in previous years. The WKCE were revised to align more closely with Wisconsin academic standards, and earlier this year, 240 educators and community members from throughout the state set the boundary between proficiency levels: minimal, basic, proficient, and advanced—based on their evaluation of what students need to know to be successful at each grade level and subject in the beginning of the tested grade.

In responding to the achievement gap, Burmaster said that the budget passed last week by the Legislature would not help the state meet the challenge to improve the achievement of all students. “It cuts in half our investment in the 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) program, which serves over 17,000 students across the state; it backs away from our state’s commitment to the successful Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) program; and takes away the capacity of schools to fund current programs by at least \$400 million over the next two years,” Burmaster said. “At a time when we must do better to close the achievement gap this budget leaves every child behind.”

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ATTACHMENTS: Tables that provide additional information on the 2002-03 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations follow. Scores for individual schools and districts will be available on the Department of Public Instruction website < http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/oea/spr_kce.html > after 9 a.m. June 30, 2003.

2002-03

Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations Performance

Percent of Total Enrolled Students (As a result of rounding percents may not total 100%.)

	Not Tested WSAS			WKCE Proficiency Categories			
		WAA for Students with Disabilities*	WAA for LEP Students**	Minimal	Basic	Proficient	Advanced
Fourth Grade							
Reading	1	2	1	4	12	40	40
Language Arts	1	2	1	5	15	43	35
Oral Language	3	1	0	4	27	51	14
Mathematics	1	1	1	17	11	41	30
Science	1	1	1	5	17	58	19
Social Studies	1	1	1	2	5	29	61
Eighth Grade							
Reading	1	1	0	6	9	44	39
Language Arts	1	1	0	12	23	42	20
Oral Language	3	1	0	5	26	51	15
Mathematics	1	1	0	11	13	47	26
Science	1	1	0	9	15	46	28
Social Studies	1	1	0	4	12	44	37
10th Grade							
Reading	4	1	0	9	14	19	52
Language Arts	4	1	0	7	18	49	21
Mathematics	4	1	0	14	12	45	24
Science	4	1	0	16	10	34	35
Social Studies	4	1	0	16	7	30	42

* Wisconsin Alternate Assessment (WAA) for Students with Disabilities was a custom test administered for the first time in 2002-03.

** Wisconsin Alternate Assessment (WAA) for Limited English Proficient students was a custom test for students who are English-Language Learners at Level 1 or 2 and was administered for the first time in 2002-03.

WKCE Proficiency Categories

Advanced Students demonstrate in-depth understanding of the academic knowledge and skills tested.

Proficient Students demonstrate competency in the academic knowledge and skills tested.

Basic Students demonstrate some academic knowledge and skills tested.

Minimal Demonstrates very limited academic knowledge and skills tested.

2002-03 WKCE Performance

Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced

Fourth Grade	All Students	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Not Identified
Reading	80	69	69	61	62	86	55
Language Arts	78	63	67	54	57	83	54
Oral Language	65	53	55	46	48	70	43
Mathematics	71	54	66	41	53	76	49
Science	77	66	59	42	53	84	62
Social Studies	90	86	85	72	78	95	73
Percent Not Tested*	1-3	1-2	0-4	1-4	1-11	0-2	14-27
Enrollment	62,390	949	2,263	7,120	3,643	48,218	197
Eighth Grade	All Students	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Not Identified
Reading	83	73	69	54	60	89	60
Language Arts	62	41	48	29	36	70	32
Oral Language	66	48	58	50	48	70	37
Mathematics	73	56	68	30	47	81	43
Science	74	57	55	29	45	82	41
Social Studies	81	69	72	44	57	88	53
Percent Not Tested*	1-3	1-3	1-4	4-10	4-11	0-1	9-19
Enrollment	67,527	1,023	2,278	6,684	3,139	54,190	213
10th Grade	All Students	American Indian	Asian	Black	Hispanic	White	Not Identified
Reading	71	58	55	36	45	78	49
Language Arts	70	51	52	34	42	76	44
Mathematics	69	48	55	23	40	76	39
Science	69	50	50	21	39	77	43
Social Studies	72	53	58	31	45	78	45
Percent Not Tested*	4	8-9	4-5	15-17	10-12	2	11-14
Enrollment	71,678	1,000	2,164	5,912	2,848	59,422	332

* The percent not tested is a range of those students not tested on each of the academic areas of the WKCE.

WKCE Highlights

What's New for 2002-03

- revised tests in mathematics, science, and social studies at grades four and eight
- customized test at grade 10
- administered in November rather than in February
- used new cut scores set by Wisconsin educators that established the boundary between proficiency levels: minimal, basic, proficient, and advanced
- included a locally administered oral language assessment for fourth- and eighth-graders that evaluated students' ability to speak in a classroom setting
- included *a//* students through the use of custom Wisconsin Alternate Assessments for Students with Disabilities and Limited-English Proficient students
- used as one of the criteria in local school board policies for promoting a student from fourth to fifth grade and from eighth to ninth grade under state law

2002-03 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations Performance

	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced					
			Reading	Language Arts	Oral Language	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Fourth Grade								
Limited English Proficient	3,235	1-14	51	46	38	50	41	72
English Proficient	59,155	0-2	82	79	67	72	79	92
Students with Disabilities	8,341	1-4	44	39	27	41	51	74
Nondisabled	54,049	0-2	86	84	71	75	80	93
Economically Disadvantaged	19,043	1-4	67	62	50	52	58	81
Not Economically Disadvantaged	43,347	0-2	87	84	72	79	85	94
Not in District Full Academic Year	5,364	1-7	73	68	55	60	67	84
In District Full Academic Year	57,026	0-2	81	78	67	71	77	91
	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced					
			Reading	Language Arts	Oral Language	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
Eighth Grade								
Limited English Proficient	2,129	5-20	39	20	34	40	27	44
English Proficient	65,398	1-2	85	63	67	75	76	83
Students with Disabilities	9,567	2-5	43	16	31	31	34	48
Nondisabled	57,960	1-2	90	70	72	81	81	87
Economically Disadvantaged	16,846	2-6	65	39	49	49	48	61
Not Economically Disadvantaged	50,681	1-2	90	71	72	82	83	89
Not in District Full Academic Year	4,296	3-8	72	46	51	59	59	69
In District Full Academic Year	63,231	1-2	84	64	67	75	75	82
	Total Enrollment	% Not Tested*	Percent of Students Scoring Proficient and Advanced					
			Reading	Language Arts	Oral Language**	Mathematics	Science	Social Studies
10th Grade								
Limited English Proficient	1,542	9-11	20	17	--	25	21	25
English Proficient	70,136	4	73	71	--	70	70	73
Students with Disabilities	8,964	8-9	27	22	--	21	28	28
Nondisabled	62,714	3	78	76	--	76	74	78
Economically Disadvantaged	13,328	7-8	50	46	--	43	44	47
Not Economically Disadvantaged	58,350	3	76	76	--	74	75	77
Not in District Full Academic Year	3,990	13-14	53	48	--	47	46	51
In District Full Academic Year	67,688	3-4	73	71	--	71	70	73

* The percent not tested is a range of those students not tested on each of the academic areas of the WKCE.

** Oral Language assessments were administered in grades four and eight only.